

Happy 50th, Spang!

From French RF-80As to U.S. F-16CJs and A-10s, this base is golden



News Briefs

Visitor passes

For the weekend 50th anniversary celebration, people planning to bring a host nation guest should visit the pass bureau by 2 p.m. today or expect delays at the front gate Saturday.

Safety tip

Based on a recent incident, the 52nd Fighter Wing Office of Special Investigations wants parents to keep in mind summer is fast approaching and it's important to realize many children will be playing outside. Parents should remind their children about safety, especially when it comes to strangers.

Parents should talk with their children and explain to them what to do when approached by unfamiliar people. One suggestion is that parents choose a "code word," a phrase that only parents and their children know. Should children be approached by someone who tells them that they're there to pick them up or that their parents want the child to go with them, and this individual doesn't give the code word, the children should immediately run, scream for help or call the police.

Parents must not forget that although wing members may live in a gated community, Team Eifel members must remain vigilant by watching out for each other and each other's families.

Air Force Parent Pin

The Air Force launched a service-wide campaign Monday to thank the parents of America's airmen for supporting their children's service.



The Air Force Parent Pin program encourages all active, Guard and Reserve airmen to register on a secure Air Force web site with parents' mailing information. The airmen's parents receive personalized letters from the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff containing high-quality lapel pins. Visit www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com.

Top 3 news

■ Those with a line number to master sergeant, senior master sergeant or chief master sergeant must be retainable for two years from sew on date or their promotions will be withheld. Call Master Sgt. Janeen Polen at 452-6344 for more information.

■ The Top 3 Council meets May 19 at 3 p.m. in the Saber Club. Guest speakers are retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Paul W. Airey and retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Sam E. Parish.

■ The Top 3 Association sponsors a \$100 college scholarships for technical sergeants and below. Essay submission deadline at the education center is Thursday. For details call Master Sgt. Tony Gonzalez and Master Sgt. William Cornell at 452-6952.

CGO luncheon

The Company Grade Officers Club meets May 23 at 4:30 p.m. in the Spang Club. Call 2nd Lt. Bobby Buckner in 452-6641 for details.

Medical clinic changes

As of Monday, all patients requiring family practices services should first visit the front desk before proceeding to the appropriate hallway for care. The Spangdahlem Medical Annual Readiness Training and Personnel Reliability Program offices are relocated across the hall from the new central check-in desk.

Eifel Times

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Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

May 9, 2003



Staff Sgt. Karen Z. Silcott

Touchdown!

A 22nd Fighter Squadron F-16CJ prepares to land May 1 at Spangdahlem Air Base. The 22nd FS "Stingers" served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The F-16CJ's fulfilled their primary "Wild Weasel" mission of suppressing enemy air defenses and destroyed Iraqi radar sites during the 27-day war. Read more about the Spang troops' return from deployment in the article, "Honey, I'm home: Troops share stories of endurance," on Pages 4-5.

Spang celebrates 50-year milestone, locals recall stories of base history

Wing invites more than 250 distinguished visitors for golden anniversary festivities, including formal retreat ceremony, fly-overs, commemorative display presentations

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Before the high-tech jets and concrete flightline, 96-year-old Adelheid Kremer remembers miles of farmland stretching out into the horizon. She and her husband, who built horse and cow wagons for farmers, were lifelong natives of Spangdahlem. They, like many of their Eifel neighbors, scraped a meager living off the land.

Then one day, everything changed.

"We could see the heavy working machines roll up," said Mrs. Kremer, then 43 years old. "At first we got worried -- we didn't know what to expect."

The Air Force was moving in. The site's relatively high elevation made the location an optimal place for jet launches. The \$27 million project kicked off in 1951.

Johann Loch, a local resident, remembers those early days vividly.

"Many trees had to be chopped down," he said. "People from the neighborhood would help transport the wood; others worked for the construction companies."

The construction project started under French leadership since the site was located in Rheinland-Pfalz, which was part of the French occupation zone. A majority of the costs were covered by reparation funds paid to the Allies by Germany after World War II.

Mr. Loch gave up land to make way for the base. Others, faced with the same sacrifice, resisted the change.

"Spangdahlem people didn't want their land taken and protested against the base," Mrs. Kremer said. "Things were difficult until people got used to the base. But that didn't take long."

Although initially resistant to the idea, residents soon saw the value of the base.

"A lot of money flew into the poor Eifel area," Mr. Loch said.



File photo

Aerial view of the grand opening of the Spangdahlem Air Base Officer's Club that took place at Hangar 1 July 10, 1953. The present day location of the Eifel Arms Inn is the building behind the hangars.

People rented rooms and apartments to workers, and later to airmen. Restaurants and pubs cropped up soon after and jobs were offered to German workers.

The two-year construction project wrapped up in 1953, although servicemembers from Fuerstenfeldbruck Air Base, near Munich, made their way over in 1952.

The base was officially dedicated on May 10, 1953, and became home to the 10th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing from Toul-Rosieres, France, with its RF-80A Shooting Star, and RB-26C Invader aircraft.

"When the first planes landed it was a big thing for our community," Mrs. Kremer said. "Everyone watched the landings, even the farmers."

The base population totaled more than 1,900 people at this point.

"A majority of the Americans lived in the community of

End of May marks suspense for base myPay PIN issuance

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Finance officials are urging people to pick up their myPay personal identification number from finance customer service as soon as possible.

"This is a mandatory requirement," said Master Sgt. Gene Jackson, 52nd Comptroller Squadron customer support finance chief. "All active-duty members assigned to Spangdahlem (Air Base) have to pick up their PIN by May 31."

The myPay system is a financial management Website that enables members to access their pay information, leave and earning statements and W-2s online.

The PIN requirement came from U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials, who chose Spangdahlem AB as one of the test sites for 100-percent PIN distribution.

Although people are required to have a PIN, they aren't required to use it.

"We highly encourage people give the system a try," Master Sgt. Jackson said. "The system is running smoothly and is very convenient."

PIN pick up takes only a few minutes. People simply need to supply their name and social security number to a customer service representative. Once a temporary PIN is issued, people should wait about a week before accessing the system. At that point, myPay will prompt users to change their PIN to a more memorable form.

The benefits of the system greatly outweigh the inconvenience of a weeklong wait, Master Sgt. Jackson said.

"With myPay, you can access your LES up to a week before it's mailed," he said. "That way, you're not waiting for it to come in the mail, especially with the mail delays overseas."

People can also access their Thrift Savings Plan accounts on myPay.

"Since open season runs through May 31, this is a perfect opportunity to establish an account or makes online changes, such as increasing your percentage," Master Sgt. Jackson said.

Additionally, myPay enables people to change their direct deposit accounts online.

"People should keep in mind that the system won't automatically change their account in Federal Automated System of Travel (FAST) too," Master Sgt. Jackson said. "You'll have to call finance to update that part."

At some point, people will have the ability to set up or adjust an allotment online, as well.

"Overall, myPay gives you more control as a customer," Master Sgt. Jackson said. "I definitely encourage everyone to give it a try. I think people will be surprised by the system's convenience."

For more information about myPay, call Master Sgt. Jackson at 452-6763.

Accidents

By Iain H. Lotan
52nd Security Forces Squadron
Reports and Analysis

Seventeen Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, three of which were classified as major.

The first major accident occurred while traveling on Rabenweg in Speicher. The accident involved two family members. While traveling in opposite directions down a narrow stretch of road, the two drivers misjudged the space between their vehicles and struck each other. One vehicle received disabling damage and was towed from the scene. Neither driver received any injuries.

The second major accident occurred while traveling over the B-51 bridge adjacent to a market. The accident involved a family member and a local national. The family member said her vehicle was struck when the other driver failed to obey a posted yield sign. Local Polizei indicated the other driver, who refused to make a statement, would be cited for this accident and assumed the investigation.

The third major accident occurred while traveling on L-34. A Wittlich Polizei officer found a vehicle overturned on the side of the road without anyone present at the scene of the accident. An investigation revealed the vehicle belonged to a staff sergeant. The individual's supervisors said they would have the owner report to security forces to file a state-

ment. While the staff sergeant was giving his statement, the officer taking the report detected an odor of alcohol on his breath. The owner of the vehicle was charged with fleeing the scene of an accident. Additional charges may be pending as a result of the on-going investigation.

The fourteen minor accidents involved:

- Seven from inattentive driving.
- Three from backing.
- One from wildlife.
- Two from following too closely.
- One in a parking lot.

In addition, 22 citations were issued.

Fleeing the scene

The following excerpt from USAREUR Regulation 190-1,

identifies the harsh consequences active-duty military members face for fleeing the scene of an accident.

(USAREUR Regulation 190-1, 2-11 Implied Consent Provision, c & d)

Many individuals choose not to report accidents to the appropriate authorities, and face the consequences for their actions. The license suspension for fleeing the scene is 180 days, and the administrative charge for DUI is an automatic one-year revocation. The combined revocation is a total of 18 months. Do not make the mistake of not reporting an accident. Accidents on the installation will be immediately reported to the security forces, and off-base accidents must be reported to the security forces and German police.



History

Continued from Page 1

Spangdahlem," said Mrs. Kremer's son, Johann.

In return, many Germans picked up work on base.

"Most farmers eventually gave up their businesses and found jobs on the base," Mrs. Kremer said. Her husband took a job at the base water plant.

The 1950s Spangdahlem bears little resemblance to the bustling base of today.

"There was only one main road, the wing headquarters building, a communications building and two large hangars," said Mr. Kremer.

Johann recently retired after more than 45 years as a base worker.

"I made many friendships over the years," he said. "The Americans were always part of the family. For 50 years, Americans have participated in the local music association or the choir."

This cooperation extended beyond off-duty time. Americans and Germans have worked together to accomplish the base's mission.

The 52nd Tactical Fighter Wing stood up at Spangdahlem on Dec. 31, 1971. Since that time, the base and its people have assisted with operations ranging from Provide Comfort II to

Northern and Southern Watch to Iraqi Freedom. The base was one of the few Air Force installations to host all four versions of the F-4 Phantom fighter. F-16s arrived years later, in 1987, and the A-10 made its way in 1992. In 1994, F-15 C and D models arrived from Bitburg AB after their operational drawdown.

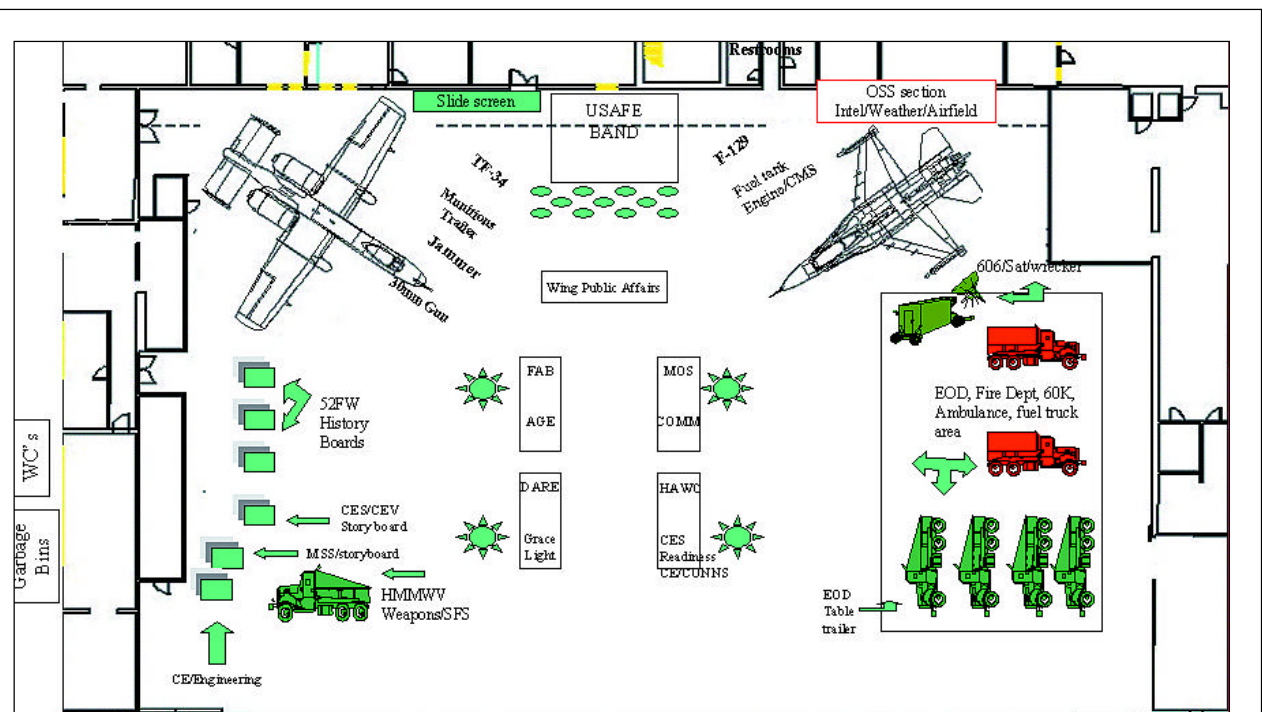
"Spangdahlem AB has a proud history which continues into the future," Col. Stephen Mueller, 52nd FW commander said. "Our outstanding performance in Iraqi Freedom is a testament to the importance of this base and its people."

"We have an excellent relationship with the local community and are grateful for their help and support throughout the years," he added.

In turn, many residents say they are also grateful for the base's contributions to the community.

"The base has been a blessing, not just for the community of Spangdahlem, but for the entire Eifel region," Mrs. Kremer said.

"I hope Americans stay for at least another 50 years," Mr. Loch said. (Iris Reiff, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, contributed to this article)



Spangdahlem Air Base's 50th Anniversary Saturday celebrations include an open house, commemorative displays and family activities in and around Hangar 1. According to layout plans, visitors can see TF-34 and F-29 static displays located near the the U.S. Air Forces in Europe band. In front of the F-129 sits the 606th Air Control Squadron satellite and wrecker. Adjacent to that is the explosive ordnance disposal shop, base fire department and ambulance displays. After checking out the TF-34, visitors can read the 52nd Fighter Wing history boards, civil engineer squadron and mission support squadron storyboards and see other military vehicles. Other base agencies, such as the base health and wellness center and the communications squadron, will also be on hand to talk about their role in the wing mission.

Spangdahlem AB 50th Anniversary events

Today

- Retreat ceremony and fly-by at 4 p.m. at the base flagpole
- Social and dinner at the Saber Club from 6-7 p.m.

Saturday

- Commemorative display and family activities at 10:30 a.m. at Hangar 1
- Distinguished visitor reception at the Spang Club from noon to 2 p.m.
- Spangdahlem mayor's social at 4 p.m. in Spangdahlem village



Master Sgt. John Olberding
Senior Airman Juliet Bates, 470th Medical Flight aerospace medical service journeyman, is this week's Top Saber Performer.

Top Saber Performer

Name: Senior Airman Juliet Bates
Unit: 470th Medical Flight, Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany
Duty title: Aerospace medical service journeyman
Hometown: Santa Fe, N.M.
Years in Service: Three
Nominee's contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success: "Senior Airman Bates is a top-notch performer who epitomizes what a professional airman should embody," said Lt. Col. Joanne Parkes, 470th Medical Flight commander. The airman serves more than 5,000 beneficiaries in the tri-border area, providing medical treatment and diagnostic services as part of her primary care team. Her efforts directly impacted the clinic's 90-percent medical personnel readiness rate, which garnered the unit first place in U.S. Air Forces in Europe and second in the Air Force. Senior Airman Bates maintains certification as a nationally registered emergency medical technician and regularly assumes immunization clinic duties in addition to her primary care responsibilities. This ensures that base patients receive top-quality healthcare.
Off-duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits: I am an active member of the base honor guard, a Little League baseball coach and I attend college classes. I also plan to attend medical school in the near future, said Senior Airman Bates.
What do you do for fun? I enjoy spending time with my two children.
What do you like most about being stationed here? I enjoy the great opportunities for traveling.
What's one thing you'd like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base? I would like to see the camaraderie between Spangdahlem Air Base and Geilenkirchen Air Base continue to improve.

IEA Scorecard

Project	Coordinator	Start	Finish
Base pavilion improvements	Keith Kellner	May 1	Pending
Airmen's Brick House	Eddie Mentzer	April 28	Pending
HAS improvements	Tech. Sgt. John Murphy	Pending	Pending
Batting cages	Mandy Baerman	April 28	Pending
Bus shelter improvements	Tech. Sgt. Michael Smith	Pending	Pending
Jet Blast Inn AFN decoder	Tech. Sgt. Sean Applegate	April 15	Pending
Honor Guard uniforms	Tech. Sgt. Randall Reno	May 6	Pending
Billeting laptops	Master Sgt. Fred Ayers	April 30	Pending
Coffee Mill improvements	Capt. Glenn Gresham	Pending	Pending
Intramural sport uniforms	Mandy Baerman	April 28	Pending
Loaner transformers	Gertrude Cochran	April 30	Pending

Eifel Salutes

Team Eifel salutes **Ernestina Vasquez**, Spangdahlem Air Base commissary manager, for her continued support of Family Support Center, American Red Cross and First Sergeant Association programs. Bring 'em home ... **Airmen 1st Class Roy Gilliam** and **Ruby Roberts**, **Airman Jason Moody** and **Herr Peter Schwarz**, 52 Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Operations Flight, did a phenomenal job in getting deployed wing members back to Spang on short notice. The team faithfully waited day and night at the airport for the delayed aircraft. HOOAH, airman! While deployed, **Airman 1st Class Raymone Massey**, 52nd Communications Squadron, went above and beyond the call of duty to get Patriot missile batteries up and running, earning him an Army Achievement Medal! All-around professional ... **Lt. Col. Theresa Sparkman**, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron Life Skills Support Center commander, for providing around-the-clock support on various personal crises situations.

Kudos to all, Team Eifel salutes you!
(Compiled from staff reports)

ACT-Eifel members take five at Army Tournament of Plays

By 1st Lt. Sean J. Carter
52nd Contracting Squadron

"Don't look anyone in the eye, run to the nearest table, hold your ground, and sit down."
This was the briefing veteran ACT-Eifel members shared with its theater-group rookies at the annual Tournament of Plays Topper Awards ceremony. It turned out to be good advice, as about 600 people rushed into Heidelberg's Village Pavilion to secure the best seats in the house.

The awards event is similar to the Academy Awards and is pretty emotional.

"You will never see women in high heels and evening gowns run faster (to accept their award)," said Dawn Bingham, veteran ACT-Eifel member.

The Topper Awards are run by the Army Moral, Welfare and Recreation Division and hosted by the Installation Management Agency-Europe. The program provides incentives, awards, and training to Army Community Theater programs. However, Air Force theater programs are also allowed to compete on a space-available basis. ACT-Eifel's production of "The Diary of Anne Frank," which ran in March, competed against a record-breaking 23 other entries, including 10 other dramas -- the most for any category awards.

In total suspense and apprehension, Spangdahlem Air Base's community theater group, ACT-Eifel, sat at three tables (huddled together, with minimal bruises and bite-marks), waiting for nominations and awards to be announced. By the end of the night, ACT-Eifel members walked off with 15 nominations and five awards.

The show received four acting honors to include: best actor in a minor role in a drama, Bitburg High School students Andrew Crawford and Ryan Davis for their portrayal as Nazi soldiers; best actress in a minor role in a drama, Dawn Bingham, who played Miep Gies; and best military performer in a play, Lt. Col. Keith H. Maxwell, who played the Frank family patriarch, Otto. The show also received the best costume design for a drama, thanks in large part to the work of Ann Sherwood and the cast.

The other nominations included:

- Best director of a drama, Dr. Rebecca L. Briley.
- Best ensemble for a drama.
- Best actress in a minor role in a drama, Angela Dodge, as Augusta Van Pels.
- Best supporting actor in a drama, Staff Sgt. Landon Martin, as Peter Van Pels.
- Best supporting actress in a drama, Judi Harvin, as Edith Frank.
- Best youth performance in a play, Maggie Harvin, as Anne Frank.
- Best military performer in a play, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Benton, as Hermann Van Pels.
- Best stage properties and dressing for a drama, Ann Sherwood.
- Best house management.
- Best program.

Spangdahlem AB community members interested in joining the ACT-Eifel team can call the 52nd Services Squadron program desk at 06565-61-7381.



Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Woodworth
Members of the 470th Security Forces Squadron, Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany, make up this week's Top Saber Team.

Top Saber Team

Unit name: 470th Security Forces Squadron, Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany
Unit responsibilities: The 470th Security Forces Squadron is responsible for providing military information and services within the tri-border area. Squadron services include the base field registration and drivers testing station; information and personnel security; anti-terrorism, force protection and resource protection; crime prevention and reports and analysis. The squadron serves people stationed at Kalkar, Moenchengladbach, Bonn, Berlin, Cologne and Bremerhafen, Germany, and Allied Forces North Europe, The Netherlands.
Number of members: Five U.S. Air Force members and two local nationals.
How does the team fit into the 52nd Fighter Wing's mission? The field registration station is responsible for driver's testing and vehicle registration for members assigned to Geilenkirchen AB and its support units. There are about 2,000 registered vehicles in the base system. The 470th SFS also monitors and updates all U.S. Security clearances for about 800 base members and support units. The squadron accomplishes all required NATO paperwork for U.S. military members for North Atlantic Treaty Organization clearances in support of the E-3A NATO Airborne Early Warning Component mission.



Honey, I'm home:



Pilot 1st Lt. Ryan Petersen, 22nd Fighter Squadron, holds up a U.S. flag as he taxis down the Spangdahlem Air Base runway. The F-16CJ pilot returned from the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility where he served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The military operation provided important lessons for North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries, including the United States. Thursday, wing pilots flew to Lechfeld, Germany, for "Elite 2003," a two-week NATO training exercise in which pilots practice combined air operations.

Family, friends laud pilots' return, Team Eifel cheers desert victory

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Amaani Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

When 24 F-16CJ aircraft touched down in waves on Spangdahlem Air Base's runway 23R, even the casual observer realized there was something special in the air; for what distinguished these landings from others is simple: these pilots have just returned from war.

High-spirited family members and other base personnel gathered at the 23rd Fighter Squadron headquarters Thursday afternoon to greet the returning 22nd and 23rd Fighter Squadron pilots.

Tears, laughter, hugs and handshakes abounded as weather-beaten but bright-eyed pilots trickled into the reception area to reunite with loved ones.

"Elation" is how Maj. Gen. Michael Wooley, the 3rd Air Force commander, described the mood. "I'm so proud of all the warriors, not just in these squadrons, but the entire wing," Maj. Gen. Wooley said. "It takes everybody to be a part of this," he added.

The jets, pilots and support people from the fighter squadrons left for the U.S. Central Command area of operations in mid-January to a forward operating location in support of the build-up for and the eventual Iraqi Freedom operations.

The F-16CJ's, fulfilling their primary "Wild Weasel" mission of suppressing enemy air defenses, destroyed Iraqi radar sites during the 27-day war.

The Spangdahlem fighter pilots also escorted bombers and other fighter jets during their time in the skies over Iraq.

The skies over Germany's Eifel region seemed much more inviting to the returning pilots. Lt. Col. Hank "Moose" Reed, 22nd FS commander, recalled the moment he made his descent into base.

"It was an awesome feeling seeing the base from the air. I told myself I'd land carefully but I still had a firm touchdown," he said with a smile. "It's great to be home — the first thing on the agenda

is to give my wife a great, big hug," he said from the flight line.

Stephanie Reed is one of numerous key spouses who, during Lt. Col. Reed's near four-month deployment, found solace from her peers.

"I found a lot of support through the spouses groups and our monthly newsletters, which really helped keep people informed," Mrs. Reed said. "The spouses and the base in general have shown an unbelievable amount

of strength, courage and grace."

According to 1st Lt. Leigh Noel, a 22nd FS F-16CJ pilot who welcomed back her colleagues, the respective "Stingers" and "Hawks" squadrons don't plan to rest on their laurels now that they've returned.

"We've been conducting 'Stawk' (Stinger and Hawk) operations, and we've really been working together to stay sharp in training so that we're prepared for the next conflict should it happen. We're maintaining full up scenarios in which we learn to fight a variety of aircraft," she said.



Above, returning pilot Maj. Steve "Duke" Hormel, 23rd Fighter Squadron, catches up with family friend 10-year-old Brittany Robinson, daughter of a fellow pilot. Below, 22nd FS pilot Capt. Matt Jensen sees his wife, Amy, for the first time after his near four-month deployment.



The wing commander was among those on hand to commend the readiness and victory of the returning Team Eifel members.

"Our people and those that remained on base worked extremely well together to achieve victory and freedom for the Iraqi citizens," said Col. Stephen Mueller, 52nd Fighter Wing commander. "It's wonderful to have our team back, safe and sound with their loved ones."

Troops share stories of endurance

Airmen battled 100-plus temps, sand storms 'behind the lines'

By Airman 1st Class Amaani Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Senior Airman Jennifer Nuckoles holds a desert camouflage uniform hat in her hand and peers out the window of a bus with about 30 airmen on board. As she shifts the hat, 113 black tally marks along the inner band become visible beneath her fingers.

The 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron avionics intermediate shop technician is an airman among some 250 enlisted maintenance and support personnel who returned via DC-10 to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Sunday afternoon from a U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "We had no idea how long we were going to be gone, but I just kept marking down the days until I could come home," the airman said.

Once over the initial shock of getting back to familiar land, the offer of hearty handshakes from wing leadership and the open and grateful arms of a nation, the airmen aboard this particular bus en route back to Spangdahlem Air Base candidly shared their deployment thoughts. The uncertainty of their stay preyed upon the minds of the troops. Many airmen said they were unsure how long they'd be gone until about a week before their return.

Since much of the mission was spent confined to base, the airmen said they seldom felt they were in harm's way in terms of enemy fire. They did, however, submit that there were a number of other obstacles that took some getting used to while carrying out the mission.

During the onset and height of the war, grueling 13-hour shifts and sporadic days off were set against the backdrop of stringent but necessary operation security measures.

"To limit the number of third country nationals, the base closed many facilities — places like Baskin Robbins, clothing sales, even the alteration place was shut down for a while," Senior Airman Nuckoles said.

She added that the closure of the alterations store left many airmen having to physically write their names on their uniforms in small block letters until nametapes could be sewn over them.

The resourcefulness needed in the case of nametapes and stripes seemed a cinch compared to the sandstorms and sweltering heat they endured, said Senior Airman Jennifer Aiston, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron information manager.

"The sand in our ears, mouths and noses was pretty unbearable," she said. "The temperatures got down to maybe 75-80 degrees at night, and in the daytime rose to about 114 degrees a couple of times. This was in March."

With short showers, long hours, inclement weather, and limited supplies to manage, one might wonder what positive memories, if any, the airmen brought home with them.

"One of the coolest things about being there was getting all the letters from schools," Senior Airman Aiston said. "The children were really sweet, as were the church groups," she said. "We got so many packages. It really made us



Airman 1st Class Amaani Lyle

Col. Stephen Mueller, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Erwin Lessel, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, greet the wing's returning 250 enlisted maintenance and support personnel as they disembark the airplane. The troops returned via DC-10 to Ramstein AB Sunday from a U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

feel good about what we were doing."

The airmen also cited unexpected support from groups outside their units.

"I was really impressed with the way the McEntire Air National Guard Station, S.C., gave us so much support and assistance," said Senior Airman Patrick Compton, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron journeyman. "Their help really boosted the morale and made our lives easier out there. We also had a lot of fun with the Australian Air Force; they were a great bunch of people. We worked with the British, Thai and Dutch troops as well and the camaraderie was amazing," he said.

A hush fell over the bus as it approached Spangdahlem. "We are so close, I can feel it,"

Senior Airman Nuckoles said softly.

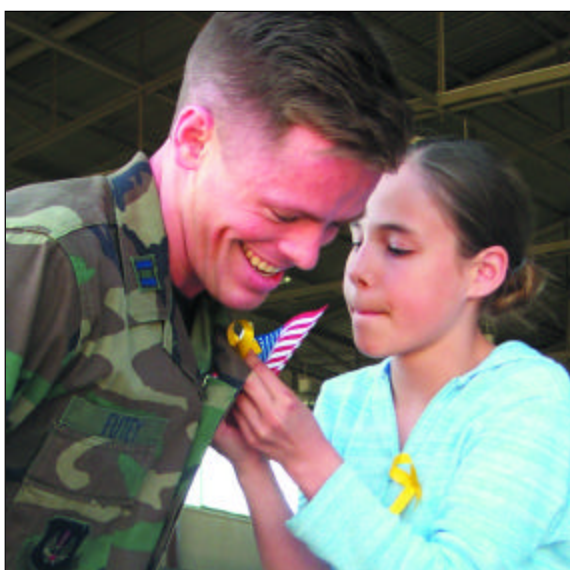
As the bus pulled into Hangar 1 at Spangdahlem, hundreds of people were on hand to greet the returning airmen. Soon scores of DCUs shuffled off the bus, weary and elated, before fading into an ocean of green uniforms and eager civilians.

Family members kissed, hugged and completed some quick catch-up. "Daddy, did you win the war," asked 9-year-old Alice Levi. Her father, Staff Sgt. Percy Lunsford, a 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron armament system specialist, considered the question seriously before answering. "I was just a cog in the wheel towards winning the war," he said. "But yes Honey, we won."



Above, Cody Autrey, age 4, staves off pangs of anticipation by working a puzzle in a family support center coloring book while waiting for his dad's return from deployment. Cody's mom, Christine, right, and his sister Corri, age 2, also wait for Staff Sgt. Heath Autrey's return in Hangar 1 Sunday. Right, Julianna Spaltro, age 12, pins a yellow ribbon on Capt. Jean Jacques Futey, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron assistant officer in charge, in preparation for the deployed troops' return home.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey



Airman 1st Class Amaani Lyle



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

Above, Staff Sgt. Jon Dalton, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron embraces his son Matthew, age 7, upon his return to Spangdahlem Air Base. Staff Sgt. Dalton had been deployed for about 113 days. Left, from front to back, Senior Airman Randy Williams, 52nd AMXS, is welcomed back home by his fiancée Daynette Carson just moments after hopping off the bus Sunday. Senior Airman Charlie Louis, 52nd AMXS, gets a welcome-back hug from his wife Kristy.

Community Mailbox



Special needs children

A support group for parents of special needs children, such as autism and Down's syndrome, takes place May 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Spangdahlem AB building 427. Childcare and dinner is provided. Call Michelle Ambrose at 452-8238 or Myra Mills at 06565-61-7545 to register or for details.

Memorial Day ceremony

Boy Scout Troop 161 invites the Eifel community to the Luxembourg National Cemetery for a Memorial Day ceremony taking place May 24. Call Tech. Sgt. Sean Smith at 452-6382 for more information.

Breakfast stops

■The Eifel Mountain Golf Course Burrito Bandito Wagon travels to various on-base agencies weekdays from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. selling breakfast burritos and beverages. Call 452-6821 for details.

■Eifel Lanes Bowling Center Strikes Grill serves breakfast weekdays from 7-11 a.m. Call 452-6217 for menu items or other details.

Chapel news

■Protestant Women of the Chapel holds a mother and daughter tea May 16 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. The activity is open to all women and their daughters in the chapel. E-mail Karen Williams at dktwill-(no hyphen)@hotmail.com or call Elaine Washington at 06565-934906 by Tuesday to reserve seats. For more information, call the chapel office at 452-6711.

■The Spangdahlem AB Chapel sponsors a seven-session marriage enrichment seminar May 16 from 7-9 p.m. and May 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The activity is open to all couples. Call Tech. Sgt. Marc Peck at 452-6386 or 06561-947573 for details.

Agency hours update

■The housing office is closed May 29 for a German holiday. The office opens May 30 at 8 a.m. Call the housing flight customer service desk at 452-7133 for more information.

■The privately-owned vehicle inspection station new operating hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It's closed on U.S. and German holidays. Call the station at 452-7426 for more information.

■Community Bank conducts training the first Wednesday and Thursday in May. The



Senior Airman George T. Wolfe VII

Out and about

Locals and tourists soak in the sunshine at an outdoor cafe in Bernkastel, a small medieval village about a 45-minute drive east of Spangdahlem Air Base. Relaxing with a glass of beer or wine in a biergarten or outdoor cafe is commonplace throughout the summer in Germany, especially after a long Saturday of shopping or on a Sunday afternoon.

Spangdahlem AB branch is open for customer service Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m. and the Bitburg Annex branch is open Thursday from noon to 4 p.m. Both banking centers are closed May 29 for a German holiday.

■As of May 10, the Bitburg Annex Auto Skills Center is open each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call the Spangdahlem AB Auto Skills Center at 452-6842 for more information.

CAC news

The following events take place at the community activity center, unless specified otherwise. Call 452-7381 for more information.

■Four-week landscape drawing course, each Wednesday, May 14 through June 4, from 6-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. Minimum age is 10.

■Congressional Award activities registration, Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. Activity is for people ages 14-23.

■Mother's Day art exhibit, now through May 29. Submit children's artwork for show at the CAC front desk.

Education services center news

The 52nd Mission Support Squadron Education Services Center is located in Spangdahlem AB building 192. Call 452-6063 for more information.

■Embry-Riddle University offers a three-weekend aviation maintenance technology class beginning May 31. The university branch also offers a two-weekend class in aviation law beginning May 30. Call 452-7553 or visit the branch office in building 131 to register.

■Applications for Term 5, June 9-July 31, Spouse Tuition Assistance are now available at the education center.

School news

National Teacher Appreciation Week

Department of Defense Dependent Schools officials encourage students and parents to show their appreciation to teachers throughout May for their contributions to society.

Spangdahlem elementary

■The last school board meeting of the year takes place Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the school media center.

Bitburg elementary

■Volunteers are needed for the school's spring carnival, which takes place May 31 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Master Sgt. Anthony Hylinski at 452-4802 for details.

Spangdahlem middle

■The school library needs volunteers. Call Jeanne McNamara at 452-7205 for details. Volunteers are also needed to help with Career

Day activities, which take place May 16. Call 452-7205 for details.

Bitburg middle

■The 8th grade holds a rummage sale May 17. All proceeds benefit the 8th grade banquet, which takes place in June.

Bitburg high

■Families moving or going away on vacation before BHS closes for summer vacation should coordinate plans with the school principal to avoid end-of-year class credit complications. Students receive credit for an early departure of up to 20 days only if they're enrolled in the accelerated program and if they are moving to a new duty station. Students may accelerate after May 15. Call the school office at 452-9202 for details.

Saber Club news

The following events take place in the Saber club, unless otherwise noted. Call 452-6090 for details.

■"Magic: The Gathering" game takes place Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. at the Saber Club. Cost of \$25 includes tournament deck, starter box and two booster decks.

■Six-week English as a second language course, each Monday from 8-11 a.m. and Wednesday from 9-11 a.m., beginning May 5. Cost is \$40. Register at the base community activity center or call 452-7381 for details.

■"Spangdahlem Idol contest auditions, June 4 from 6-9 p.m. in the Saber Club. Applications are available at the base community activity center. Submission deadline is May 28. Call the CAC at 452-7381 for details.

Family support news

The following workshops take place in Spangdahlem AB building 307. Call 452-9491 for details.

■French classes take place each Monday and Wednesday from 6-8 p.m., beginning June 9. Call for details.

■Basic investing, Tuesday from 6-8 p.m.

The following workshops take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call 452-6422 for details.

■German classes take place each Tuesday and Thursday from 6-8 p.m., beginning June 10. Call for details.

■Cooking Italian specialties, Tuesday from 6-8 p.m.

BASH meeting

The initial Big Annual Summer Happening (BASH) private organization meeting takes place Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Spangdahlem AB fitness center. Organizations planning to participate in this year's event, which takes place July 3-7, should attend.

Der Markt

Free classifieds policy and submission deadlines

Der Markt is for the personal resale of items by military and civilian employees and their families. Items such as advertisements for rental property won't be published due to funded paper restraints. Ads should be 35 words or less and customers are limited to no more than two ads per week. Ads must be typed or printed legibly and turned into the public affairs office, building 23, at least **10 days before the desired date of publication**. Ads can also be e-mailed to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil or sent via fax to 452-5254. Having ads in by deadline does not guarantee publication. Ads for services generating regular income will not be published. The ads must include the sponsor's name and telephone number. Ads not meeting these requirements, including those exceeding the designated word limits, will not be printed. The *Eifel Times* staff reserves the right to edit ads.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office staff. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.



Col. Stephen Mueller

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

■DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil

■Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126

■To PA in building 23.
■Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more information.

Sortie
Scoreboard

Unit Goal Flown

22FS	58	22
23FS	50	28
81FS	68	65

Sorties flown
April 28-May 4

(Courtesy of the 52nd Maintenance Squadron Plans and Scheduling Section)

Viewpoint

May 9, 2003

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Going off-base

Community support builds friendships

Logistics commander finds members don't have to go far for hospitality

By Maj. Inez A. Sookma

52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron commander

Have you ever thought about what makes Spangdahlem such a coveted assignment? For some, it's the thrill of working at one of Europe's few remaining fighter bases. For others, it's the great German food and beverages. For many, it's the magnificent travel opportunities available throughout the Eifel region. I say the answer is "D: All of the above." But none of these would be possible without the strong foundation of a phenomenal local community that has faithfully supported our wing over its amazing 50-year history.

During my three years here on station, I have helped deploy every Aerospace Expeditionary Force bucket, worked the logistics for three class-A mishaps and survived three operational readiness inspections.

Additionally, I've supported Operation Croatian Phiblex, post-Sept. 11 attacks, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and two Installation Excellence Award competitions. On top of that, I'm immersed in my Air War College studies. Needless to say, all work and no play does indeed dull one's senses. To balance my workload, I've made a conscious effort to get out in our Eifel community every chance I get, and in doing so, I've forged some very special friendships.

If you've ever visited the Spang Club, you'll notice there's a small, but distinct gift shop in the lobby, "Et Ladchen," owned by Andreas and Iris Gerlach of Speicher. Their specialty crafts include a myriad of authentic German gifts ranging from nut-crackers and music boxes, to toys for the kids.

Andreas is very skilled at custom-framing pictures and Iris creates beautiful, one-of-a-kind dried flower pictures. These delightful ladies have supported our wing community since 1990.

As mentioned earlier, Germany is known worldwide for its great food and beverages, particularly its beer and wine. I've been very fortunate to befriend my personal vintners, Alfons and Alfrieda Sebastiani, who run their family's vineyards in the hills of Mehding along the Mosel River. If you ever have friends visiting the area, you must take them



to a wine probe at the Sebastianis' to sample some of their award-winning wines, ranging from the sweetest auslese to the drier halb-trocken or driest trocken. They have wines of every variety to suit the palate and for the designated drivers and kids, they offer some of the smoothest grape juice, too. Herr Sebastiani is a great storyteller who loves to tell jokes, and he will make you laugh while enjoying a real taste of Germany. The Sebastianis also have various wines available in our base community activities center lobby, for those who can't make it to Mehding.

Another favorite stop of mine is Kaefers' Porzellanhaus (also known as "The Three Sisters") in Sohren, near Hahn airport. Two of the three Kaefer sisters, Hildegard and Margaret, work in their gift shop daily. Their family opened the shop in 1924 and since then, this wonderful store has

Listen up!

Medical flight explains hearing loss prevention

By Tech. Sgt. Joel J. Zoucha

52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight

With the new runway construction underway, wing A-10s and F-16s continue to launch and recover on the NATO parallel taxiway, about 820 feet closer to base offices. This means more noise for the base community.

Some Team Eifel members may feel they're hazardous noise exposed; however, this is far from the truth. Yes, the instantaneous noise is hazardous, but when the number of sorties is averaged with the exposure time of taxiing aircraft, the noise levels average well below the permissible exposure level set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for non-industrial personnel. Those who are exposed to hazardous noise in an industrial setting are identified and monitored on the base Hearing Conservation Program.

What's the best way to protect ourselves from hazardous noise? The key word in dealing with noise is prevention! We want to eliminate unwanted

noise when we can. When noise cannot be eliminated or lowered, we want to keep our exposure as low as possible.

Time and distance are important factors when dealing with unwanted noise. A rule of thumb to remember is doubling the distance between you and the noise source decreases the decibels level by six. For example, if a lawn mower produces sound levels of 90 decibels, a hazardous noise at two feet, then the sound level will be 84 decibels, a non-hazardous noise at four feet. Here are some things to do to protect your hearing:

■Wear hearing protection when exposed to any loud or potentially hazardous noise at work or in the community. Placing cotton in your ears won't work. Hearing protectors, such as ear muffs and ear plugs are preferred. Hearing protection can be purchased at drug stores, sporting goods stores or safety catalogs. Call the 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight at 452-8248, if you need guidance on the type of protection to

provided a countless variety of gifts, ranging from kitchenware and crystal, to some of the most beautiful Christmas crafts I have ever found in Germany. Even after Hahn Air Base closed in 1991, Americans stationed at other military bases throughout Germany and the United Kingdom still make their pilgrimage to the Kaefers'.

Hildegard Kaefer also serves as a member of the Regierungsbezirk Koblenz Chamber of Commerce, so she is always on the go as she supports various causes throughout the community. I had the honor of attending a seminar hosted by the Kaefers on Germany's porcelain-making history, bringing in a multitude of German porcelain manufacturers who shared their vision of the industry's future. The Kaefers also recently hosted a very interesting place-setting seminar for the Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Officers and Civilians Spouses Club, followed by a health fair in their store last month to raise health awareness. A Trier television station recently filmed a documentary about the Kaefer family and how they have served both German and American communities over past generations.

These ladies are amazing entrepreneurs and philanthropists, who always seek new ways to support our community and to make things better for people.

All three of these friends bring a wealth of their cultural goods and crafts to our annual holiday and spring bazaars, supporting our base community. I have room to recognize only three friendships, but we have so many more outstanding neighbors in our Eifel community.

I hope you make the most of this assignment. This is Europe — you have to go beyond the main gate and into the community to truly appreciate the fantastic neighbors with whom we are blessed. To my German friends, I say, "Vielen dank!" To my American friends, I say, "Get out and support your local community — it supports you!"

purchase. The 52 AMDS Public Health Flight can provide fitted re-useable earplugs to military members and civilian employees working on base.

■Limit periods of exposure to noise when aircraft are launching. Temporarily close your windows or cover your ears if you're outside. The noise duration of the taxiing aircraft only lasts a few minutes. Take personal responsibility for your hearing and a proactive approach in protecting your health.

■Educate yourself and others about the hazardous effects of noise and what you can do to prevent exposure to unwanted noise. You may not see the benefits today, but you'll appreciate your effort years down the road.

Although aircraft will be taking off closer to the base community, the increased noise levels don't have to be detrimental to your hearing.

However, if the exposure cannot be controlled, the 52nd AMDS Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight can conduct a special workplace assessment and recommend the necessary controls.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated. More synopsis information is available at www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Bitburg Castle

Today
Dreamcatcher (R)
Four young friends perform a heroic act, and in the process, are transformed forever by receiving special powers. Years later, the four reunite for a hunting trip in the Maine woods. The trip is soon interrupted by a stranger, and the friends must band together to battle a mysterious alien force as the future of the earth hangs in the balance. (Violence, gore and language.)

Saturday
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13)
Andie’s on a mission to find a guy, get him to fall in love with her, then make all the classic dating mistakes so he’ll dump her within 10 days. Too bad her target is Benjamin, who has just made a high-stakes bet with his boss that he can make a woman fall in love with him in 10 days. (Sexual material.)

Sunday
Dreamcatcher

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday
Adaptation (R)
Out of sheer desperation, a writer decides to insert himself into the screenplay he’s struggling to adapt. But soon, reality and fiction begin to overlap in unexpected ways. (Language, sexuality, drug use and violent images.)

Thursday
Dark Blue (R)
Feared on the streets of L.A., veteran Officer Perry and rookie Officer Keough of the elite Special Investigations Squad investigate a high-profile homicide. Officer Keough soon learns that cops aren’t above the law, but sometimes they operate outside it. (Violence, language and sexuality.)

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today
The Core (PG-13)
Geophysicist Dr. Josh Keyes discovers that an unknown force has caused the earth’s inner core to stop rotating. Keyes, along with a team of scientists, travel into the earth’s core to detonate a device that will reactivate the core. (Thematic material and language.)

Deliver Us From Eva (R, 10 p.m.)
Hardened by her parents’ deaths, Eva gives up her dreams to provide for her three sisters. The sisters obey Eva’s every decision, but often at the expense of their men. Fed up, the men conspire to rid themselves of Eva. (Sexual material.)

Saturday
The Jungle Book 2 (G)
Mowgli gets restless and decides to return to the “bare necessities” of jungle life, but Mowgli’s old nemesis Shere Khan, is out for revenge.

Adaptation (10 p.m.)

Sunday
The Jungle Book 2 (4 p.m.)

The Core

Monday
The Core

Tuesday
Deliver Us From Eva

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.

Prevent sports injury from spoiling summer

Keep in shape by maintaining a health plan

By Tech. Sgt. Herbert Tucker
52nd Medical Support Squadron

Summer in Germany is one of the prettiest, the most exhilarating, and often, most dangerous seasons of the year. Warmer weather doesn’t cause the environment to become more hazardous; people simply spend more time out in it. After all, have you ever heard of someone flipping over the handlebars of a stationary bike?

While we cannot eliminate all accidents from happening, we can maintain a health plan to either reduce them, or decrease the severity of any injuries that do occur. Here are a few suggestions to make your summer injury-free:

Bicycling

■Simply put, wearing certified biking helmets saves riders’ lives. Unless streets come equipped with padded roads, telephone poles and car bumpers, helmets are still the best defense against severe head injuries.

■Avoid wearing clothing that can get caught in bike spokes or chains, and pull a rider’s hands or feet into moving parts.

Jogging and running

■Runners should wear light clothing and reflective belts at night and during hours of visibility. Being noticed by drivers is the runner’s best bet to avoid being hit.

■People shouldn’t run on uneven ground or in tall grass. Landing in holes or on rocks can result in twisted or fractured ankles.

■Dedicated joggers should run on even grassy or dirt surfaces, or soft tracks, which are designed to absorb impact and protect leg joints. Repeatedly subjecting the joints to an unyielding surface, such as concrete, can cause unnecessary wear and tear. This practice can also cause painful conditions, such as shin splints or stress fractures.



Staff Sgt. Karen Z. Silcott

After sliding into in-lines, skaters of all ages should snap on a helmet to protect the head from injury resulting from a fall.

Softball

■Players should wear sunglasses and hats to protect them from the sun and to assist them in keeping their eye on the ball. Long pants protect the legs from abrasions when sliding.

■During the game, players should avoid sliding into bases that are raised or elevated. Depending upon the technique and speed, these can easily lead to broken ankles, dislocated knees or jammed fingers.

In-line skating

■Wrist guards are a key piece of safety equipment. When teetering off balance, the first instinct is to stop the fall with the hands. As a result, the wrist is the most commonly broken bone in skating.

No matter what the sport preferences, people should stretch first, drink plenty of water, and keep alcohol and physical activities separate.

The 52nd Medical Support Squadron wishes everyone a very safe and healthy summer.

Sports Shorts



BHS’s Eubanks lands spot in track championships

Bitburg High School track and field team rookie, Chris Eubanks, solidified his European rankings Saturday with double gold results in a six-team track meet hosted by SHAPE High School. Eubanks, ranked 1st and 2nd place in the discus and shot put events respectively. He extended his personal best records to 138 feet, 6 inches in the discus and 45 feet, 7.5 inches in the shot put.

Carletta Hernandez threw the discus three of four attempts farther than she had ever thrown before. Hernandez’s best distance of 87 feet, 9 inches not only set a personal best record, securing a bronze medal placing, but also surpassed the European Championship qualifying standard.

Next, the team travels to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. (Contributed by Geary Schwartz, BHS coach.)

Track volunteers needed

Bitburg High School track and field officials seek volunteers to help with the 2003 Division II Track Championships taking place at BHS May 17. Call Coach Geary Schwartz at 452-9337 for more information.

‘Ladies’ soccer team wins sudden-death shootout

The Bitburg High School Lady Barons soccer team won a close match against Vilseck Saturday defeating the Falcons in a sudden-death shootout 4-3. Chelsea Gavagan scored both goals for the Barons, ending the game 2-2. Kirstin Pope, Leesa Visosky, Ashley Baltadonis and Gavagan scored and Melodie Duperval made a great save to lead the Ladies to victory in the shootout.

Next up, the Lady Barons take on the Patch Panthers Saturday at 10 a.m. (Contributed by Megan Quinn, BHS soccer team assistant.)

‘Ladies’ begin division play with 1-1 record

By Daniel Vasquez
Bitburg High School softball staff

The three-time defending Division II European Champions, the Lady Barons, traveled south to Patch High School to defend their softball title. The team was met by warm weather, sunny skies and a very tough opponent.

Game one proved to be one of hardest-fought defensive battles in Lady Barons softball history. The Lady Panthers took an early lead, then the Lady Barons came back and went ahead, only to be tied up in the sixth inning. The Ladies couldn’t do anything in the top of the seventh, and went into the bottom of the inning putting all of their chances for a win on their tough defense.

With one out in the bottom of the seventh, freshman pitcher, Ashley Kazimer delivered the pitch that Lara Galing hit for a walk-off solo home run, to give the Lady Panthers a 6-5 victory. Despite Kazimer’s great effort; giving up only two earned runs, walked none and five strikeouts, she took her first loss. Overall she stands the same with senior captain Tanja Moore, both with a 2-1 winning record for 2003.

The second game was quite different, as the Lady Barons displayed brilliant defensive ball control and woke up their bats to powerhouse over the Lady Panthers. Moore faced only

17 batters in the Barons’ ten-run rule victory. Moore’s shut out was made possible with help from an invincible infield and a major league performance in the outfield. Patch’s only offensive production was three hits, as Moore struck out five and gave up no walks.

First baseman, Kaitlyn Phillips led the third-inning slugfest with one of her two home runs of the game, giving her five RBIs. Outfielder Casey Martin’s double cleared the bases for three more runs, while freshman Monica Blintz went two-for-two to add the ninth run of the inning.

Earlier in the season, BHS split its season opener with a 6-5 loss and an 8-6 win against Lakenheath High School, the three-time Division I European Champions. In last week’s double-header, the Lady Barons defeated the Mannheim Lady Bisons 15-4 and 12-2. In overall standings, the team is 4-2 with a 1-1 record in divisional play.

The Lady Barons host their division rival, the AFNORTH Lady Lions. The game begins Saturday at 10 a.m. on the softball field behind the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel. The Eifel community is invited to come and support the Lady Barons as the team defends its European crown for the fourth time.